



Fantastic Four

DISASSEMBLED

MARVEL

517

WAID
WIERINGO
KESEL

THE FANTASTIC FOUR

4 A team— and family — of adventurers, explorers and imaginants, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary — and extraordinary. As of today:

3 The FF has made a number of public missteps lately, leaving them the butt of many a Daily Show joke and greatly eroding public confidence in New York's First Family.

2 On the brighter side, trademark and patent revenue is up, meaning the Richards family can once more be sneered at in the best restaurants...

1 ...though between the FF's fall from grace and the recent casualties resulting from the destruction of Avengers Mansion, New Yorkers aren't exactly resting easy even on this, every kid's second-favorite holiday...



STAN LEE PRESENTS
"FOURTITUDE"

MARK WAID and KARL KESEL
 writers

MIKE WIERINGO
 penciler

KARL KESEL
 inker

PAUL MOUNTS
 colorist

**VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S
 RANDY GENTILE**
 letterer

MIKE WIERINGO
 cover artist

SCHMIDT & WILEY
 assistant editors

TOM BREVOORT
 editor

JOE QUESADA
 editor in chief

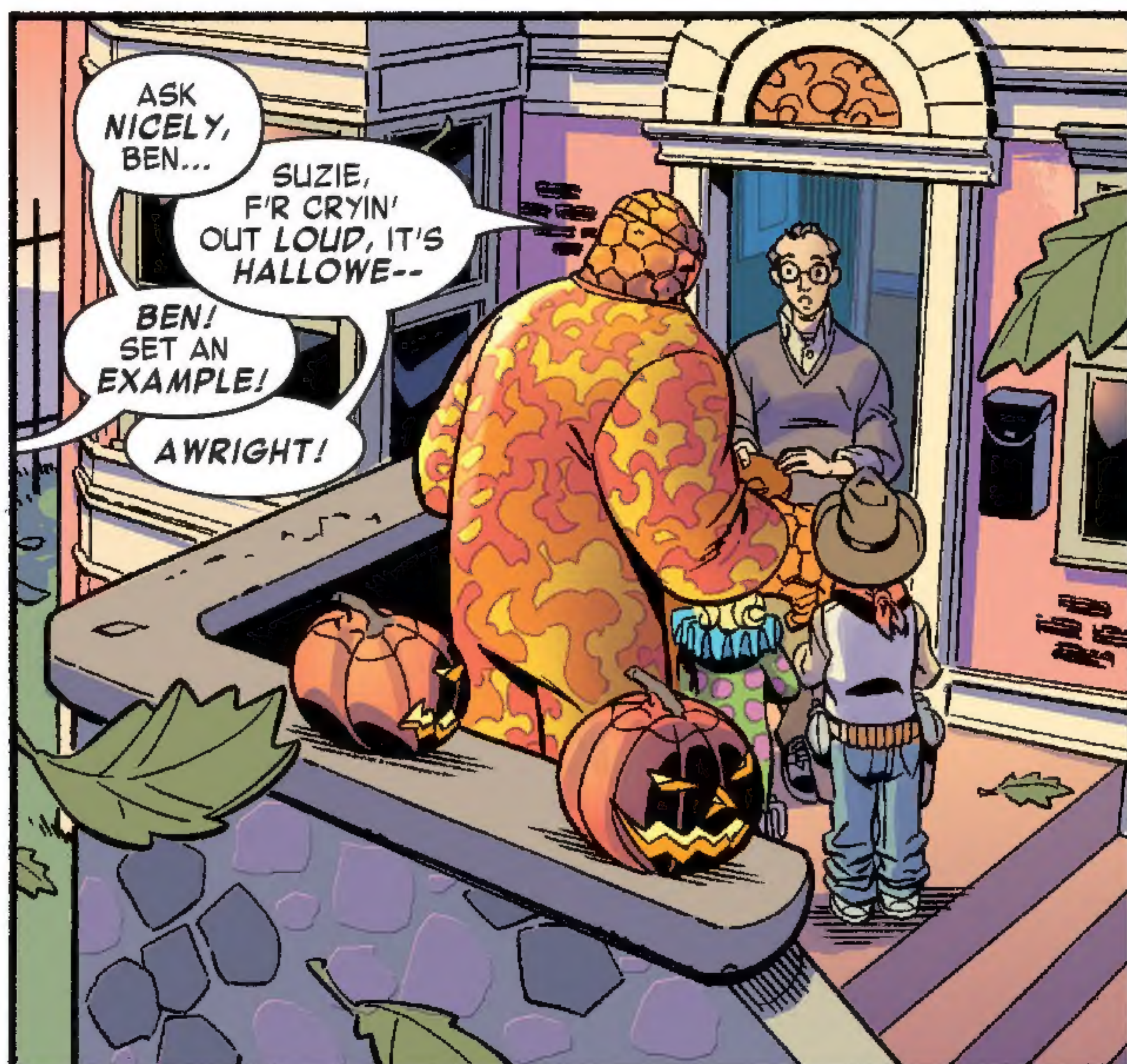
DAN BUCKLEY
 publisher

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
 fourmost

TRICK 'R
TREAT.

THE
HUMAN
TORCH





ASK NICELY, BEN...

SUZIE, F'R CRYIN' OUT LOUD, IT'S HALLOWE--

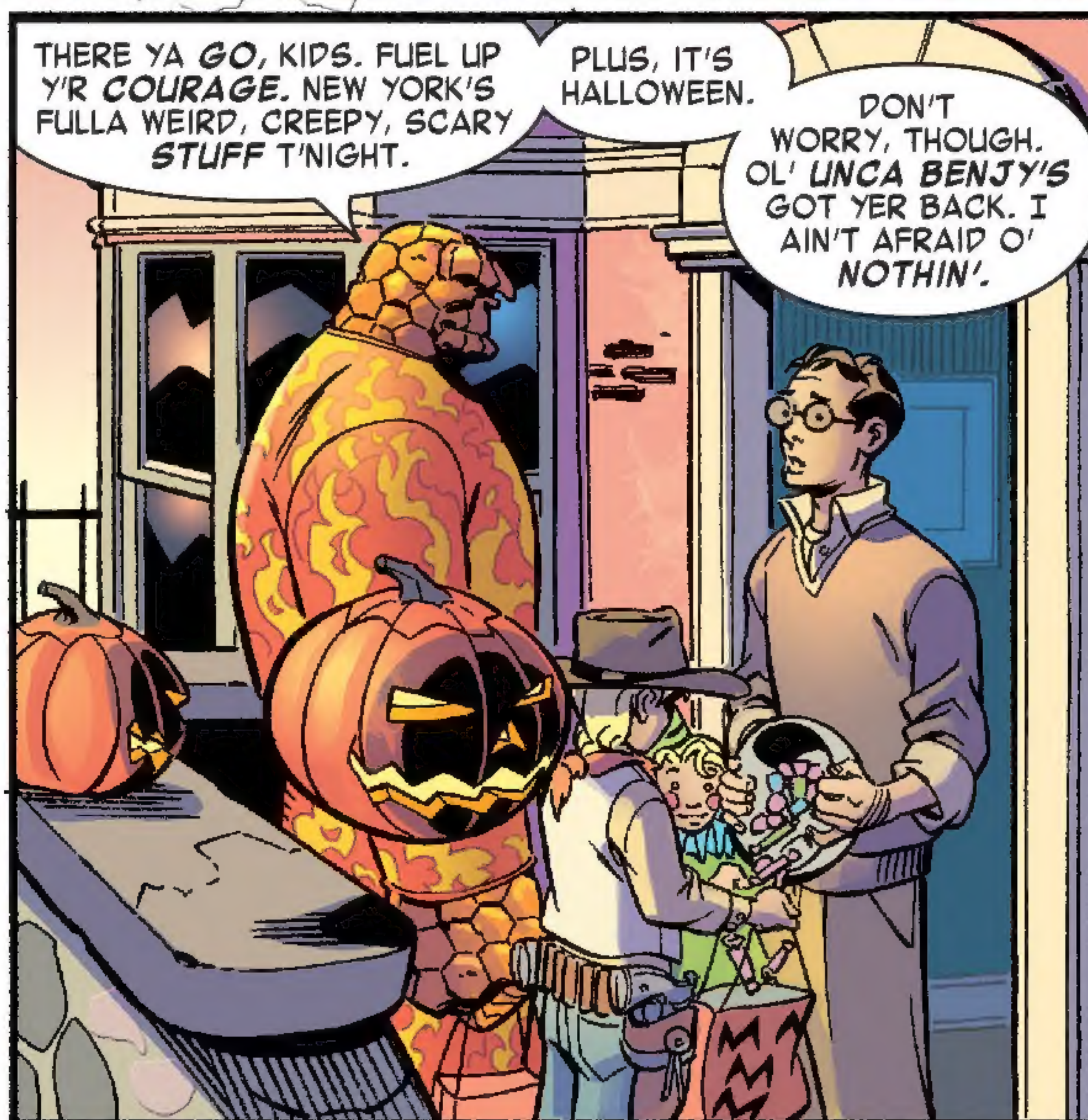
BEN! SET AN EXAMPLE!

AWRIGHT!



PLEASE.

THE HUM TORCH



THERE YA GO, KIDS. FUEL UP Y'R COURAGE. NEW YORK'S FULLA WEIRD, CREEPY, SCARY STUFF T'NIGHT.

PLUS, IT'S HALLOWEEN.

DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. OL' UNCA BENJY'S GOT YER BACK. I AIN'T AFRAID O' NOTHIN'.



WHY, WHILE Y'R UNCA JOHNNY WAS PEEIN' HIS PANTS, WHO D'YA THINK WAS LOOKIN' ANNIHILUS DEAD IN HIS EYE? ME!

WHO WAS LAYIN' A HAMMERLOCK ON TH' DRAGON MAN WITH HIS PINKY HELD OUT ALL PAINTY-LIKE 'CAUSE IT'S CLASSY? ME!



I FEEL SORRY F'R ANYBODY TRYIN' TA SPOOK BENJAMIN J.

GRYAAAAH!



YOU BIG BABY.

CREEPIN' UP ON A GUY WHEN Y'R INVISIBLE...

IT WAS ACTUALLY MORE SAD THAN FUNN--

LAFF IT UP. YA THINK THAT WAS FUNNY?

YOU COULDN'T TELL, BUT I HAD MY PINKY HELD OUT.

AW, SHUDDUP.

CLASSY.



Y'NOTICE
SOMETHIN'
UNUSUAL THIS
YEAR?

NOT A
LOTTA **CAPTAIN
AMERICA**
COSTUMES. OR
IRON MAN, OR
THOR...

I DID
NOTICE. I WAS
ABOUT TO SAY,
"NO AVENGERS AT
ALL," BUT THAT'S
A LITTLE CLOSE
TO THE BONE.

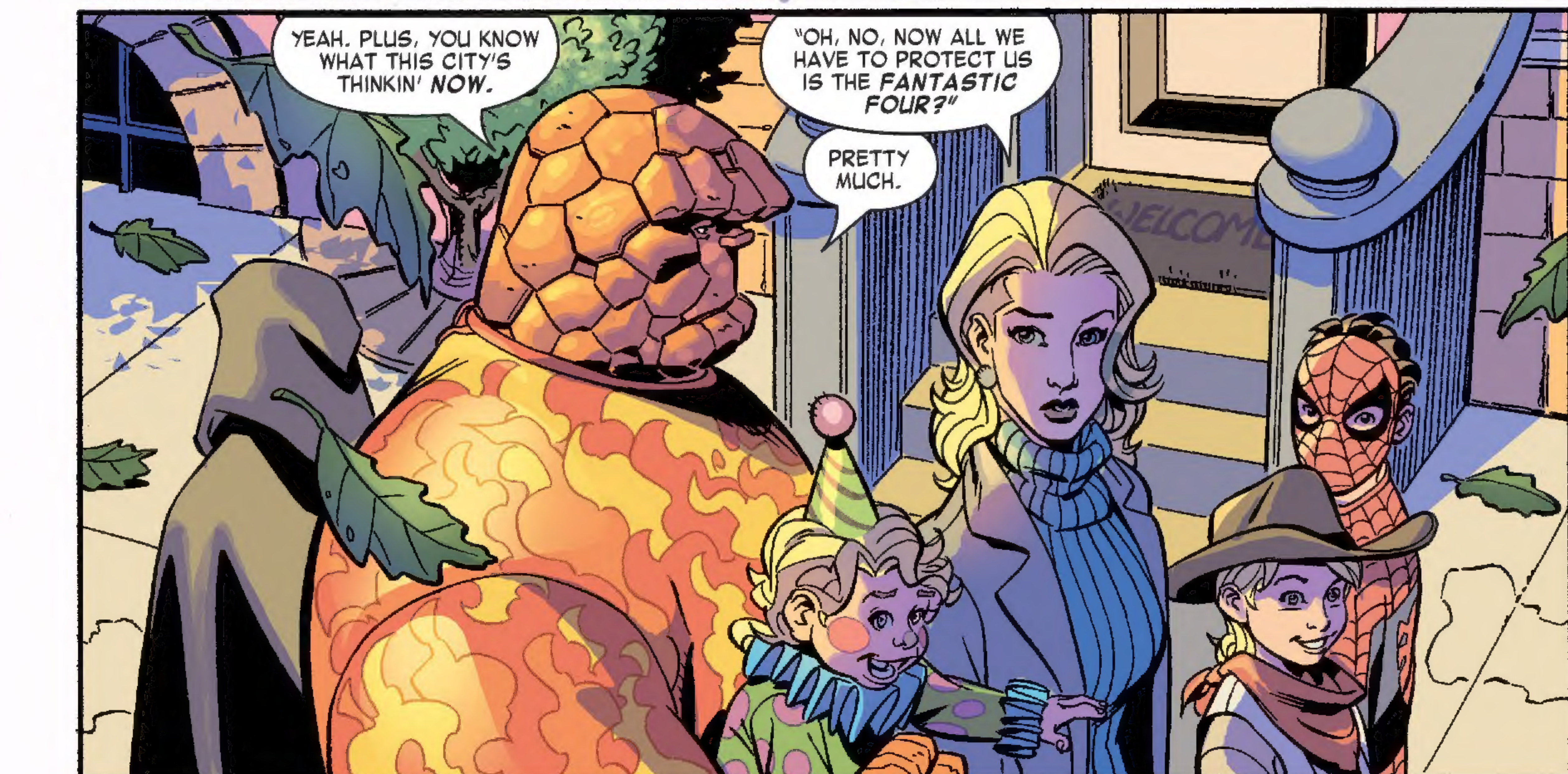


WE HEARD 'XACTLY WHAT
HAPPENED YET? I KNOW
TH' LUCKY ONES ARE IN
TH' HOSPITAL.

...BUT NO WORD ON MOST OF
THE REST. THIS MORNING, THE
TODAY SHOW DID TWO HOURS
ON THE STORY. "NEW YORK'S
PREMIER SUPER-TEAM
VANISHES."

SOME
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
ARE THEORIZING THEY WERE
DISBANDED BECAUSE, AND
I QUOTE, "THEIR PRESENCE
WAS A DANGER TO ORDINARY
CITIZENS." CAN YOU
BELIEVE THAT?

THIS,
BEFORE WE'RE
EVEN SURE WHICH
AVENGERS ARE
GOING TO PULL
THROUGH.



YEAH. PLUS, YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS CITY'S
THINKIN' NOW.

"OH, NO, NOW ALL WE
HAVE TO PROTECT US
IS THE **FANTASTIC
FOUR**?"

PRETTY
MUCH.

4 THE BAXTER BUILDING.

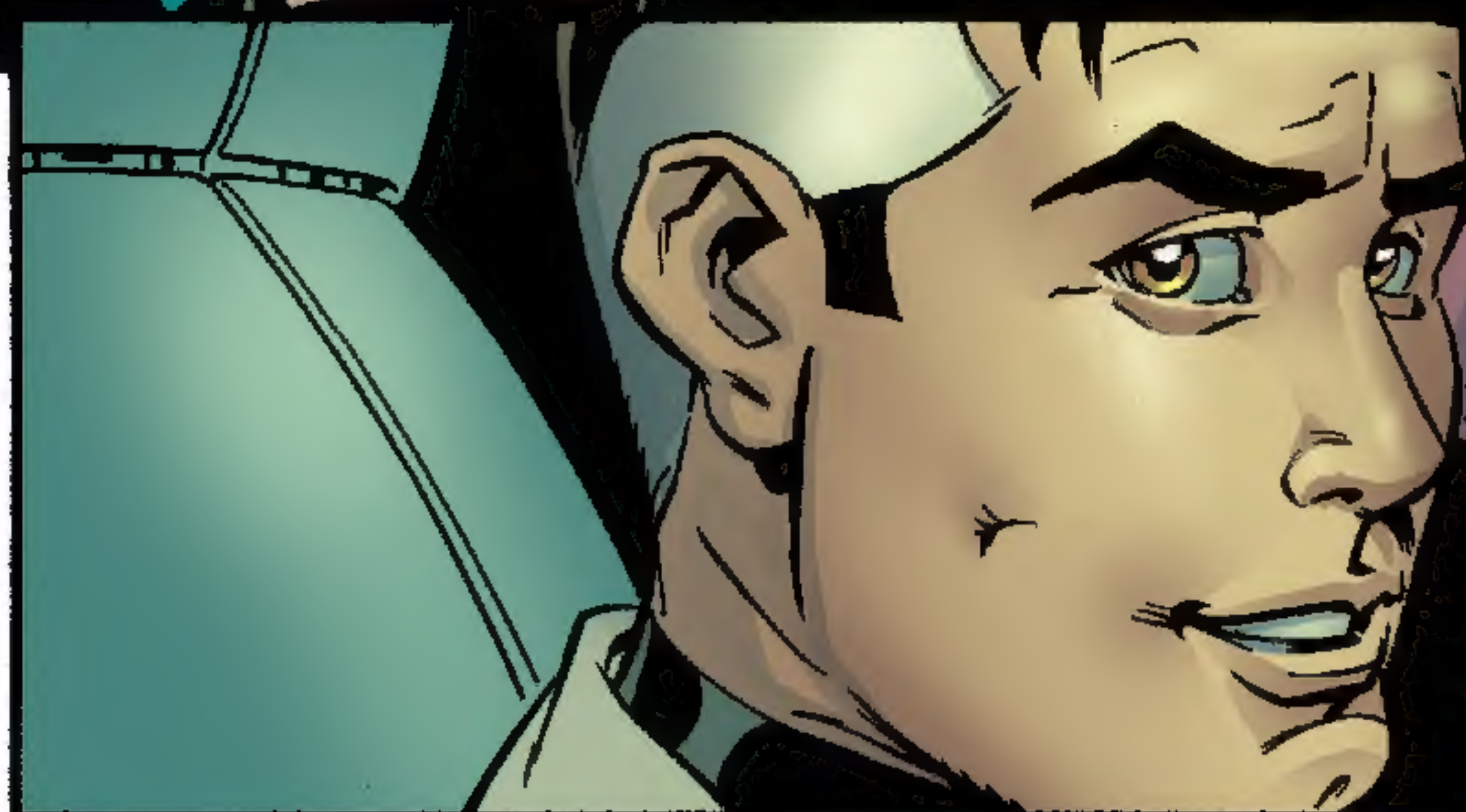
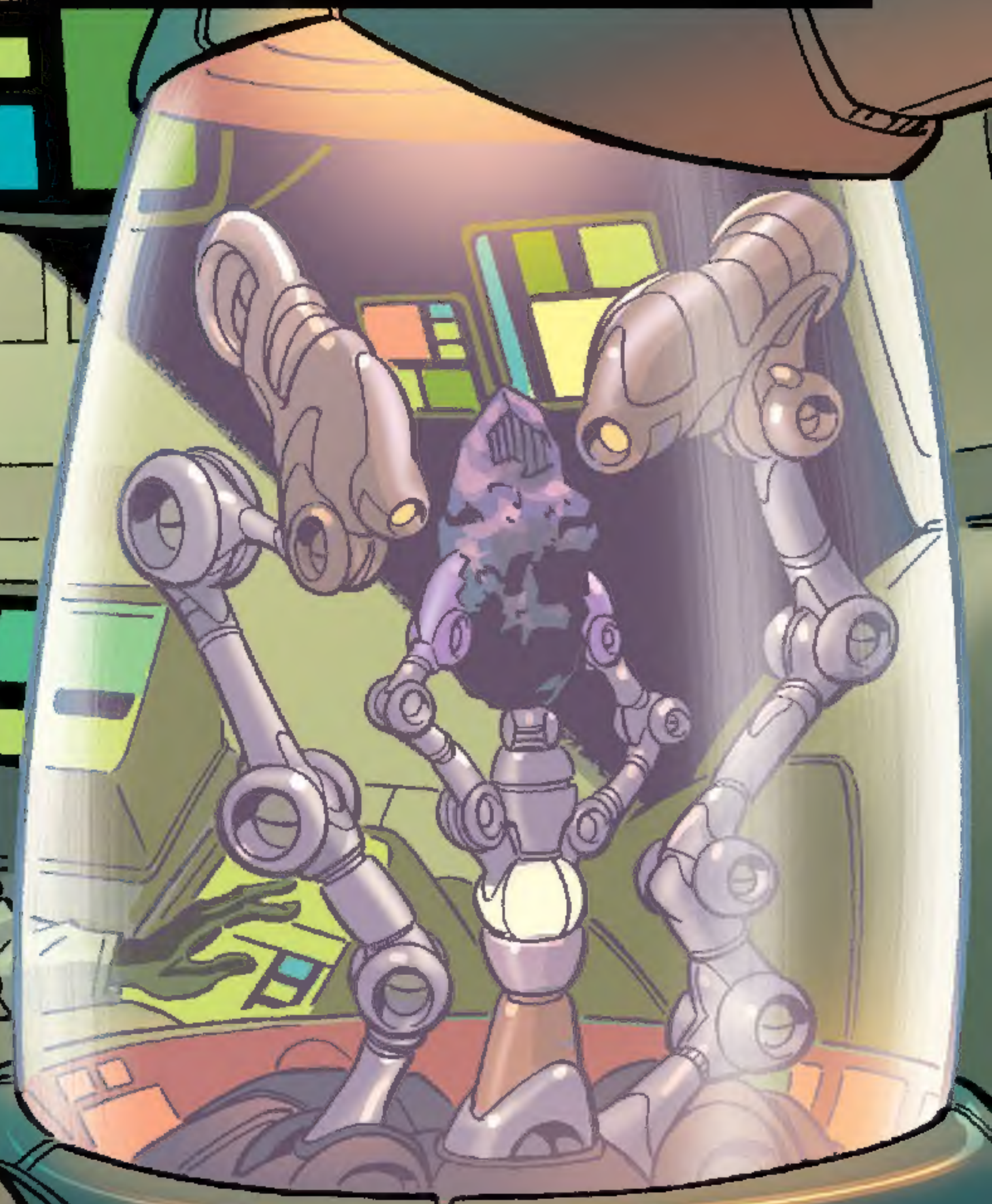
...AND THE SELF-INFLATING, SELF-RETRIEVING BASKETBALL? REED, TOY BIZ PAID YOU *BIG* FOR THAT ONE. JOHNNY, DO YOU HAVE A FINAL FIGURE?

ON MY EXCEL DOWNSTAIRS. I DO REMEMBER THERE WERE A LOT OF COMMAS IN THE NUMBER, THOUGH. WE LIKE COMMAS.

INVENT MORE STUFF. I'LL WAIT.

JOHNNY STORM...!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, JIAN. JOHNNY, YOU CAN DREAM ALL YOU LIKE, BUT I WILL NOT LET YOU LICENSE THE PATENT FOR MY X-RAY SUNGLASSES.



SUNGLASSES? WHAT SUNGLASSES?

THE ONES THAT CAUSE BLINDNESS.

NOOOOOO!

GOTCHA. I KNEW THAT PROTOTYPE WENT *SOMEWHERE*. HAVE IT BACK IN AN HOUR. JIAN?

BACK TO WORK, JOHNNY. LET'S GO...!

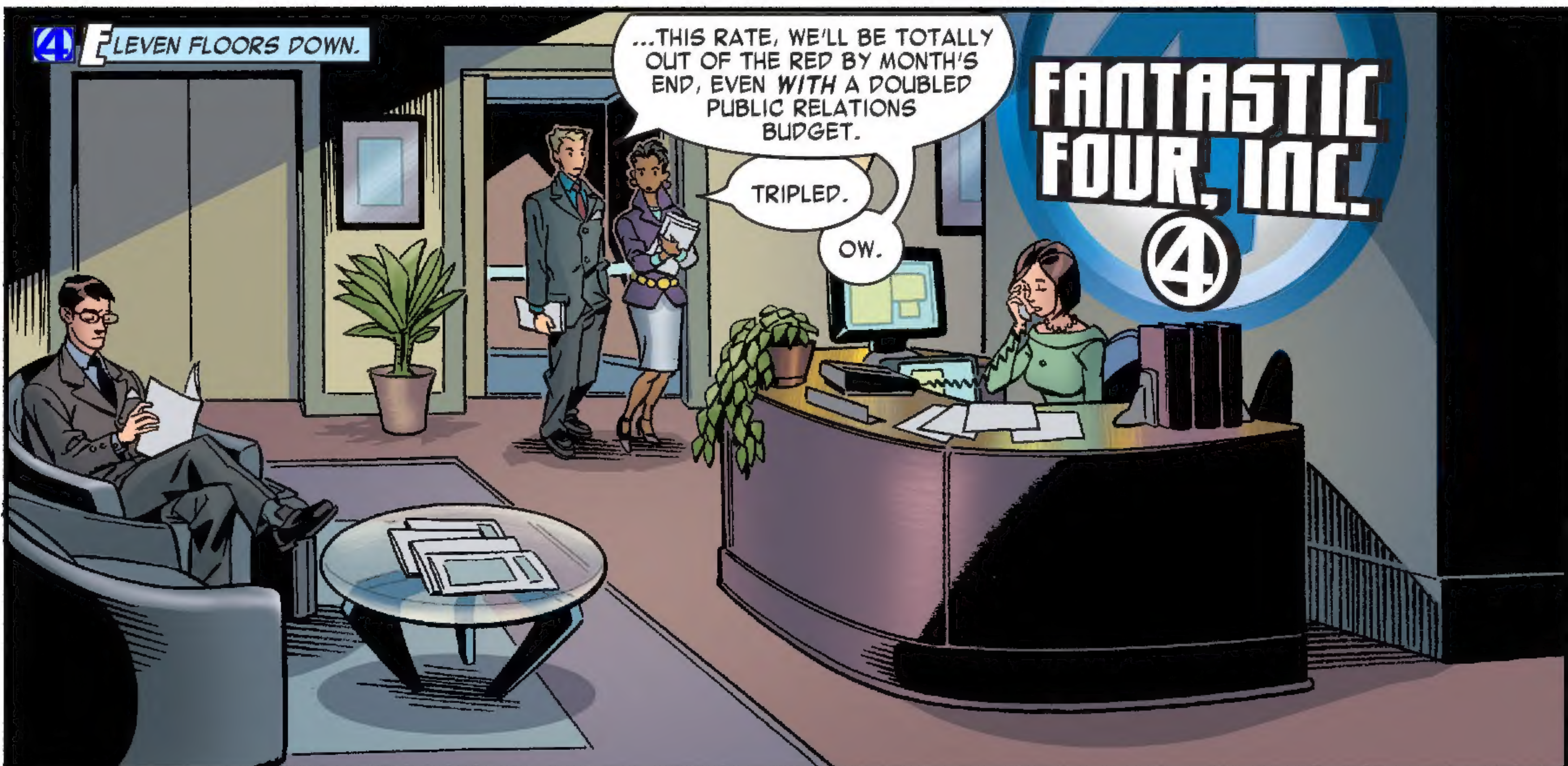
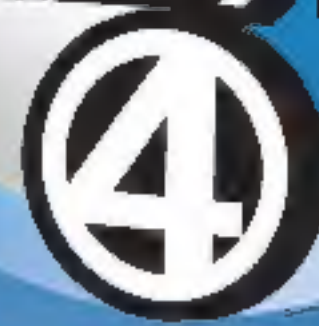
4 ELEVEN FLOORS DOWN.

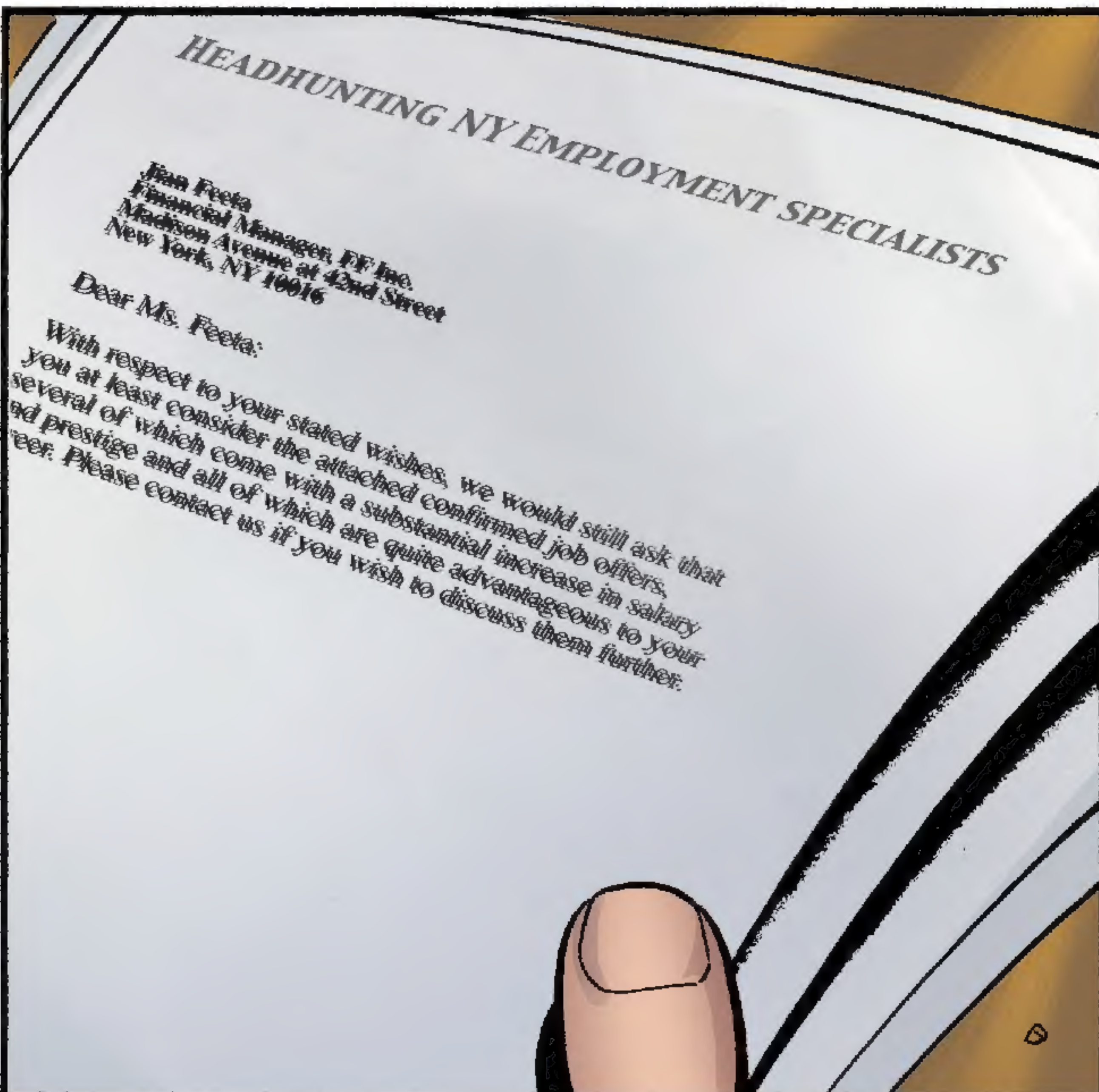
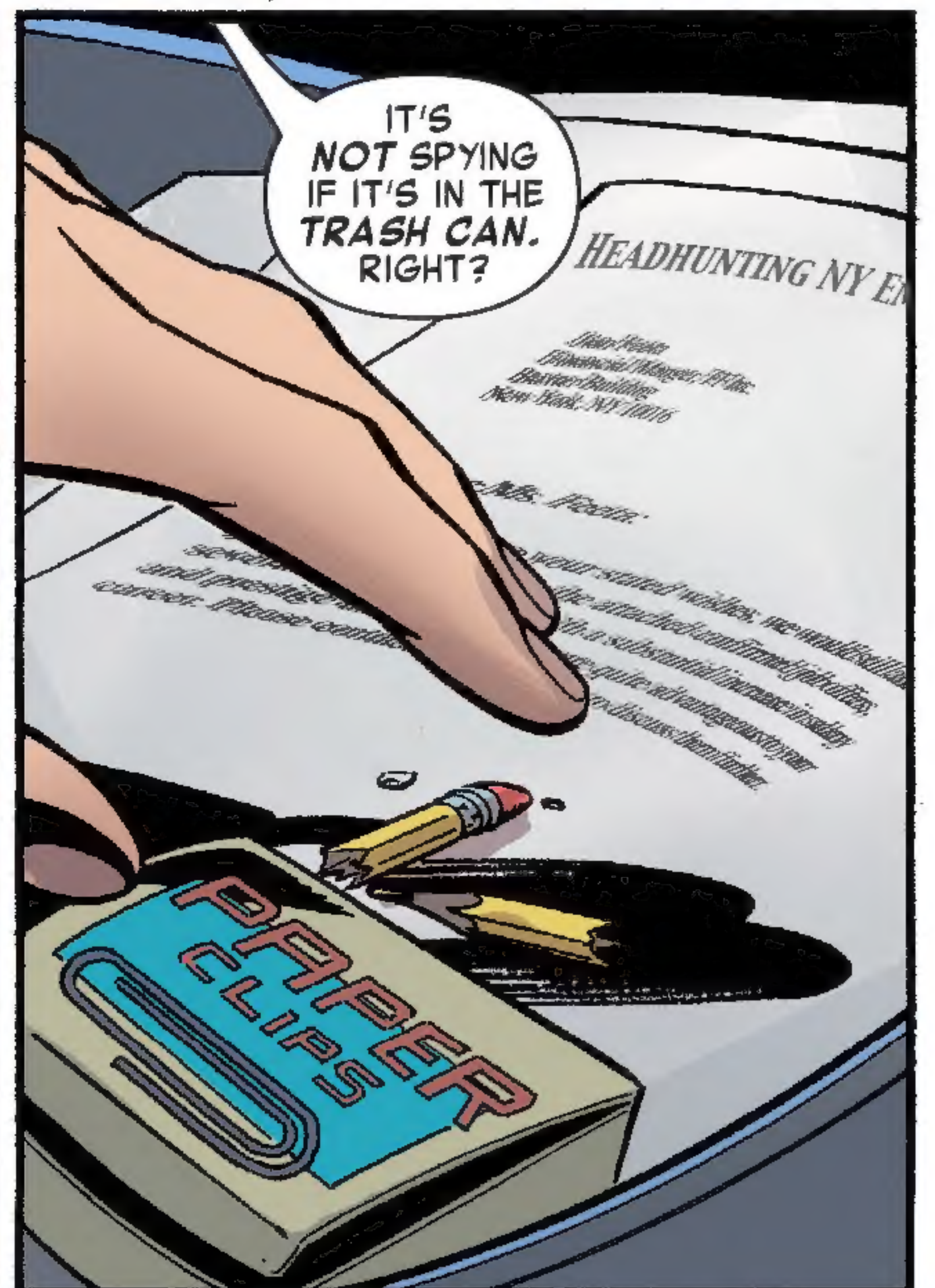
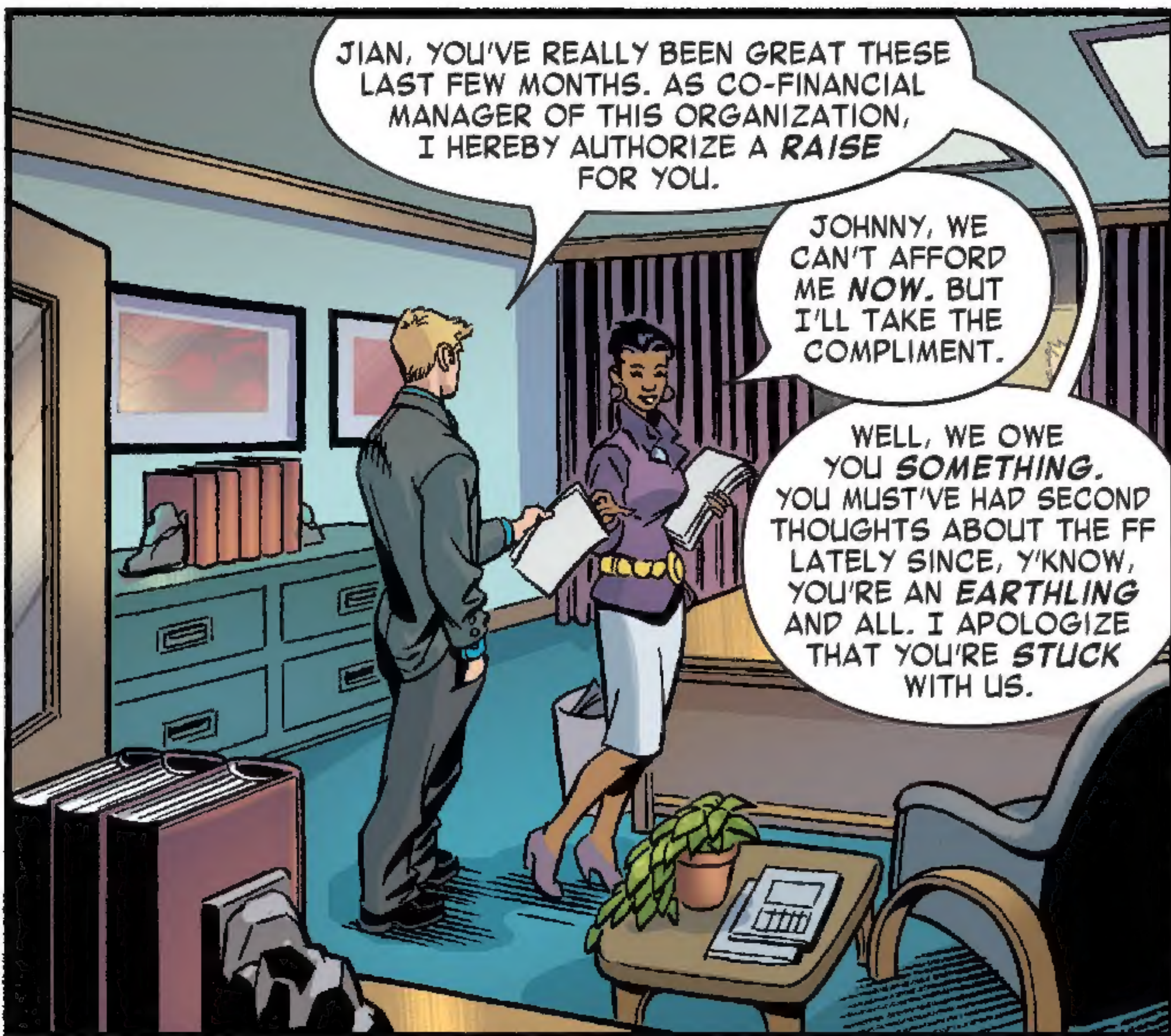
...THIS RATE, WE'LL BE TOTALLY OUT OF THE RED BY MONTH'S END, EVEN WITH A DOUBLED PUBLIC RELATIONS BUDGET.

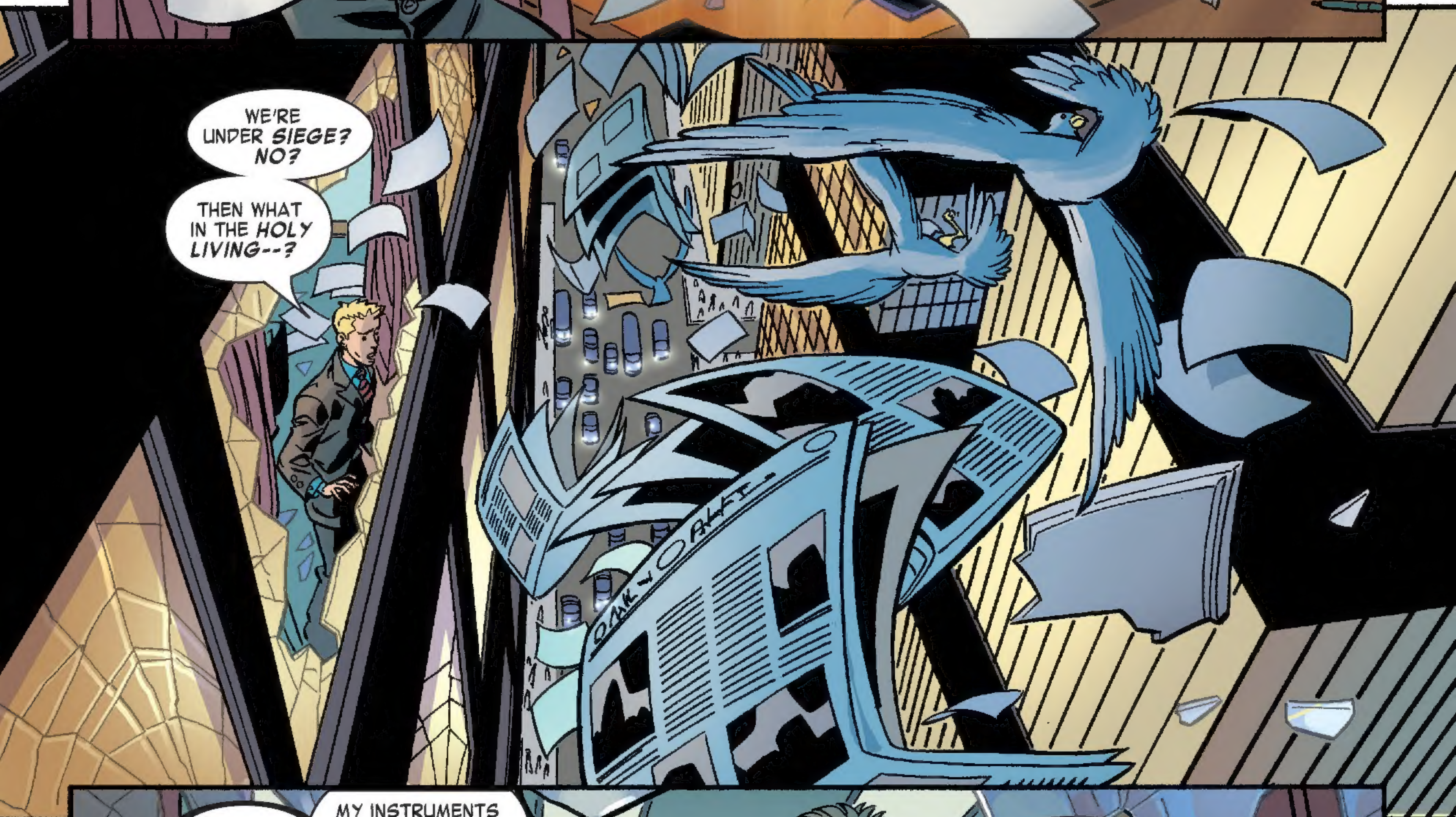
TRIPLED.

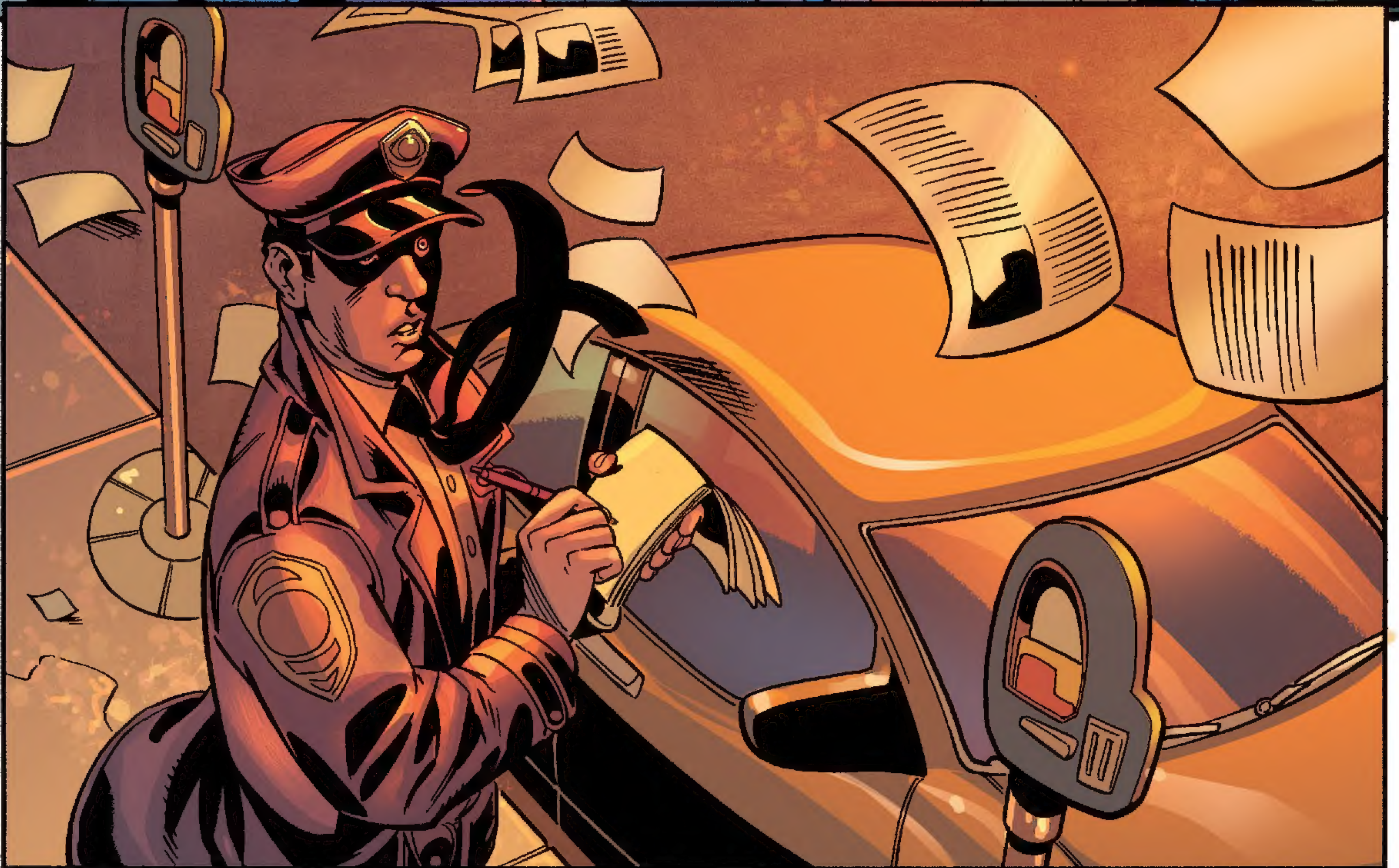
OW.

FANTASTIC FOUR, INC.



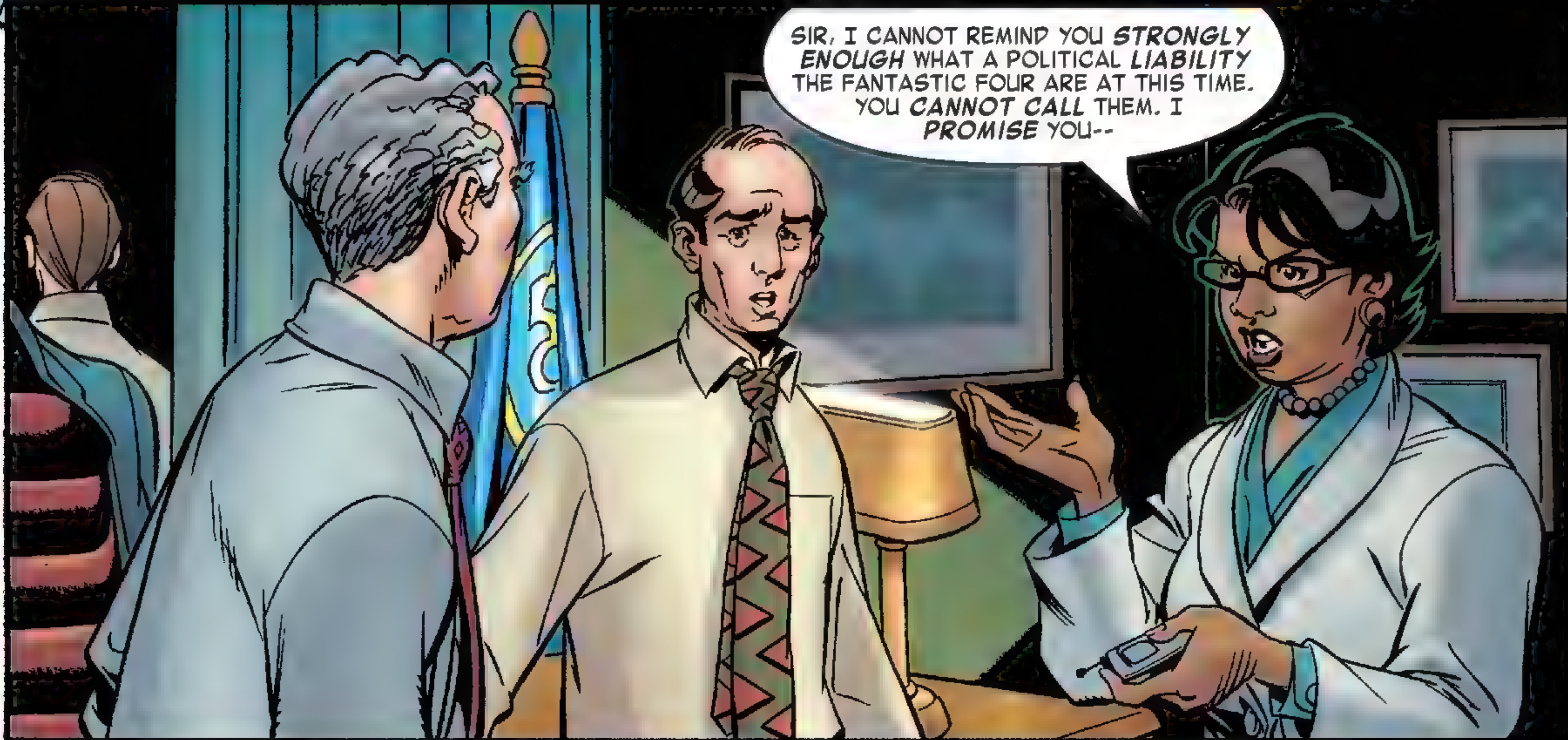
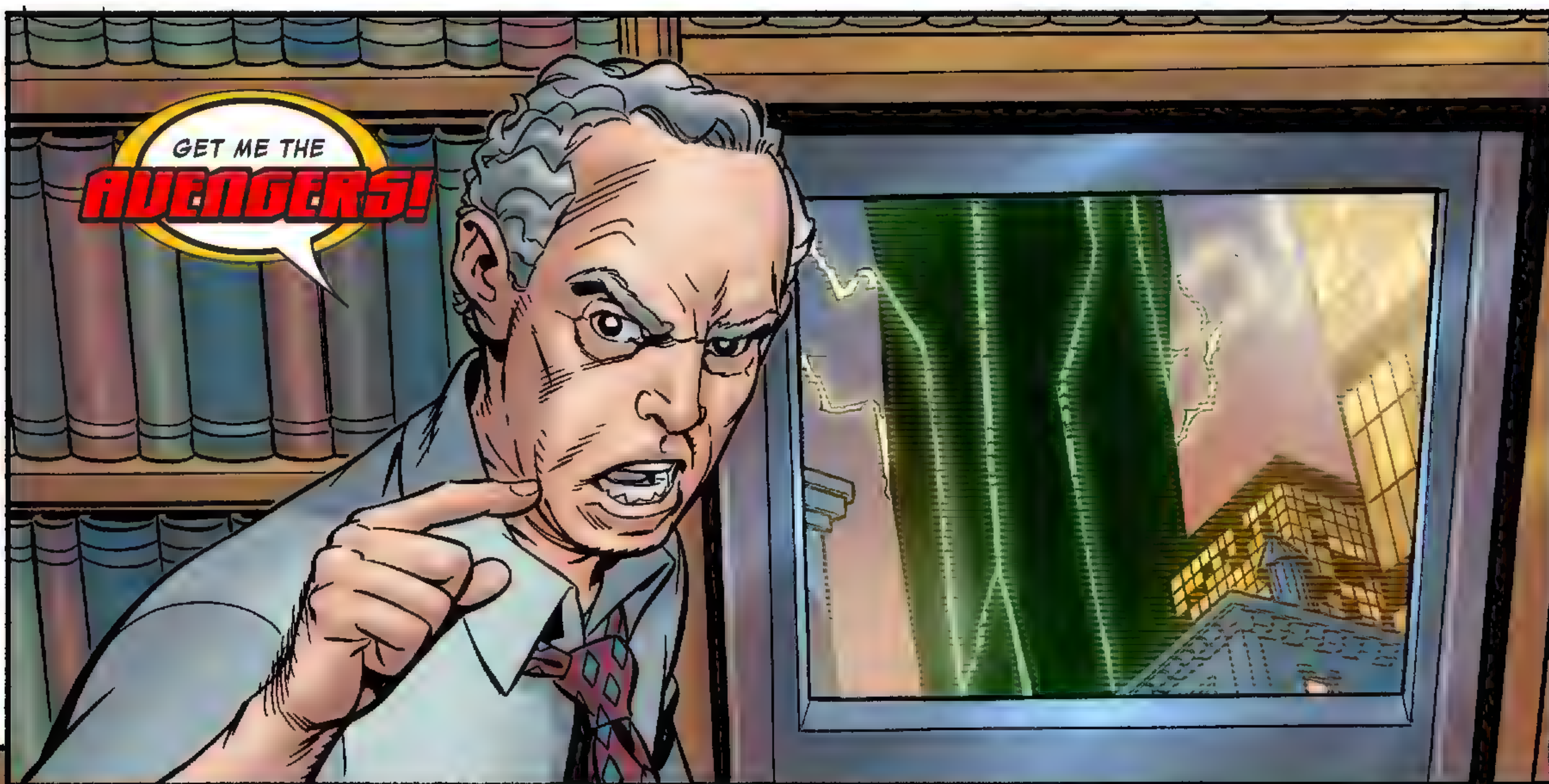






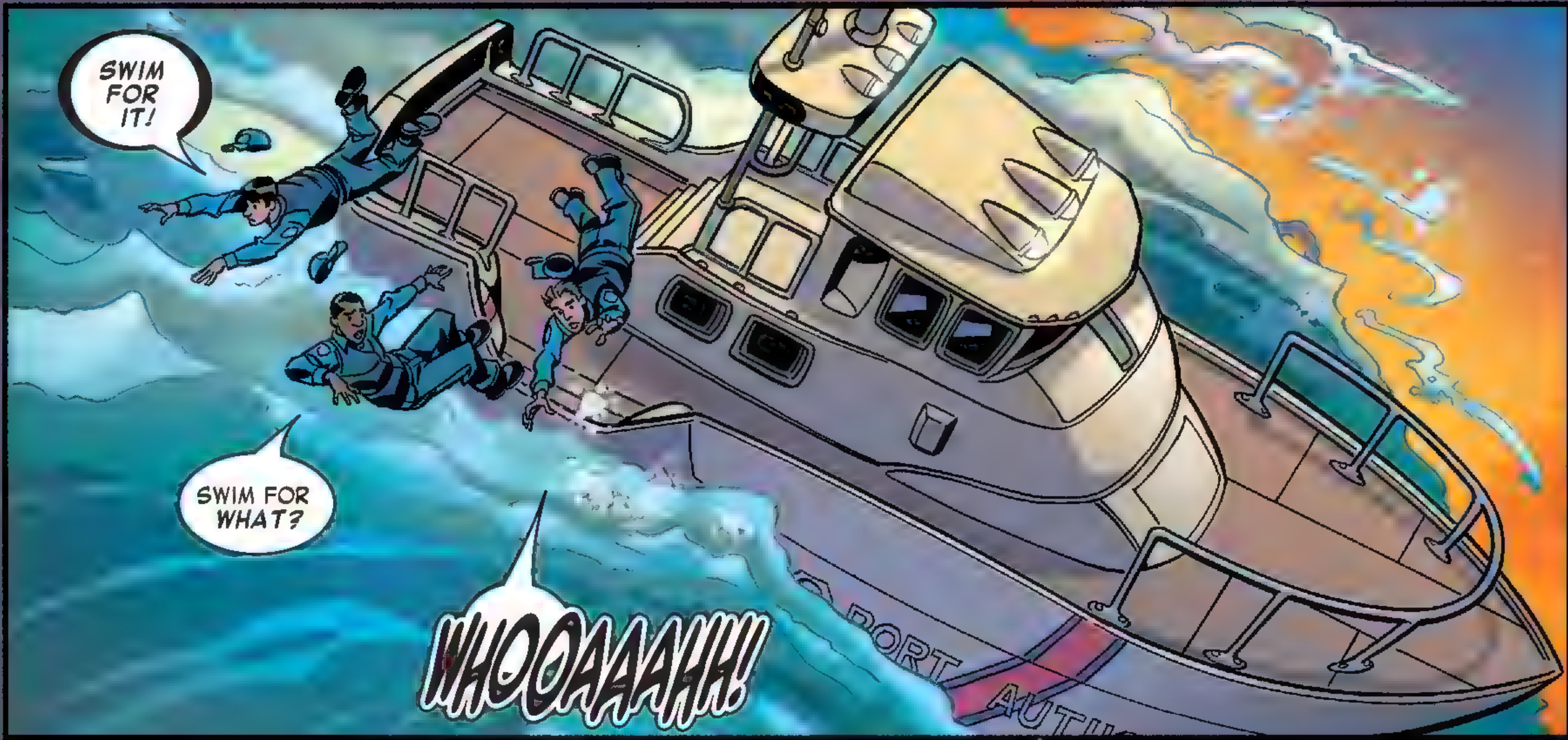








"--THEY WILL ONLY MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE."



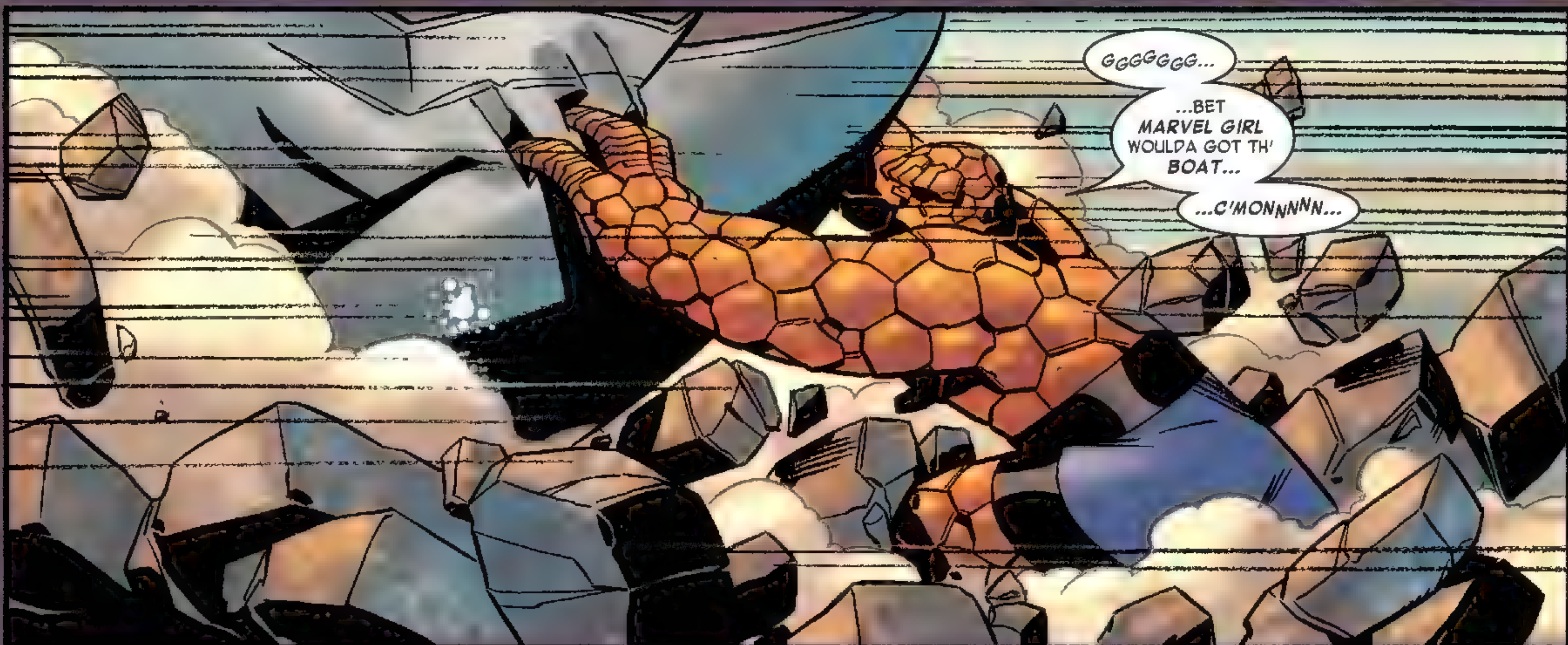
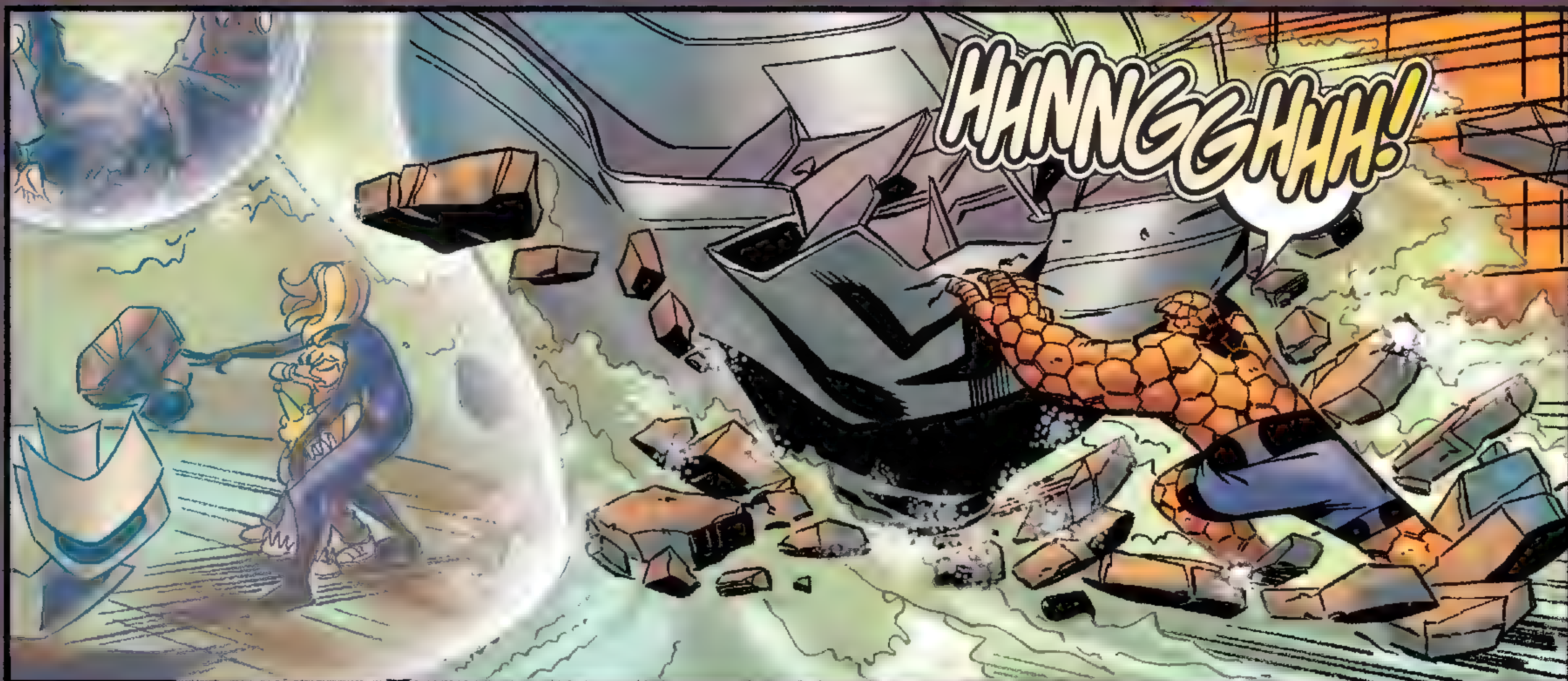
SWIM FOR IT!

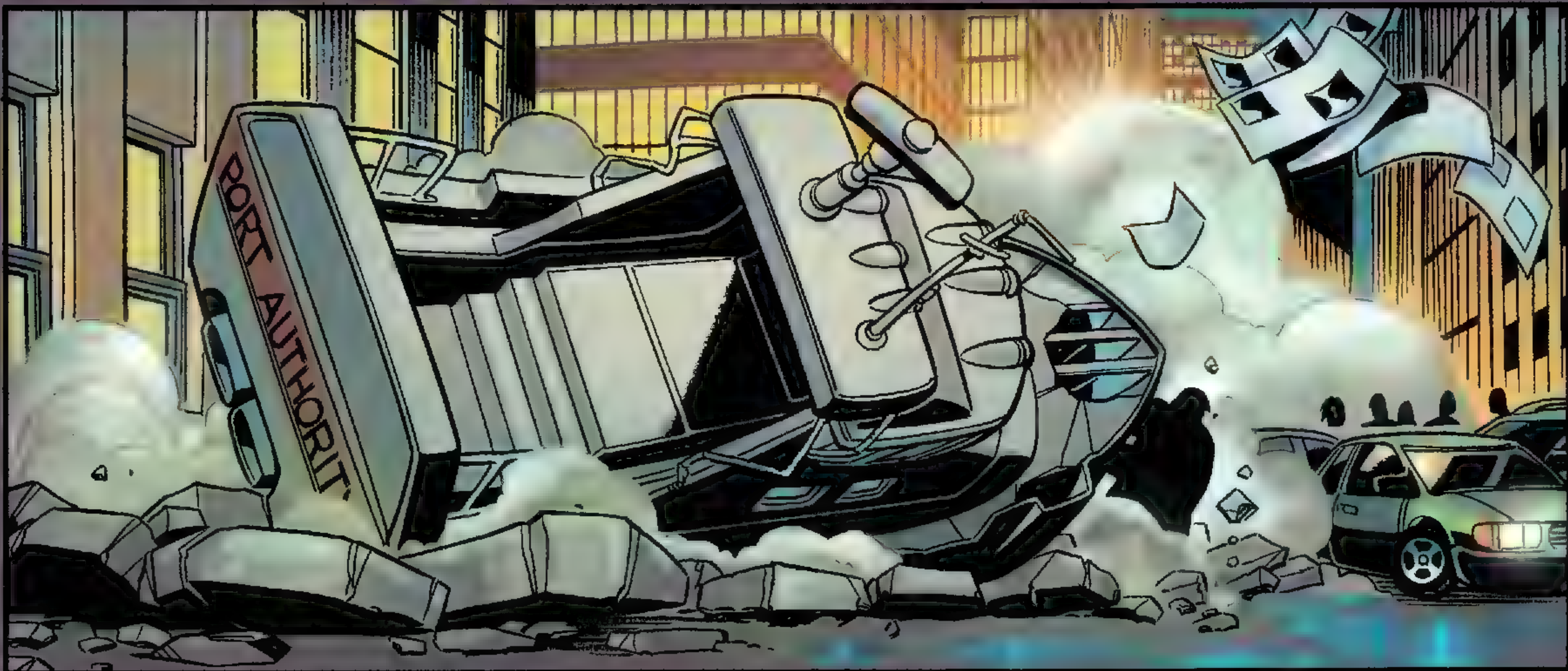
SWIM FOR WHAT?

WHOOAAAHH!



HUH?











OR DON'T. GRRREAT. WHEN IT COMES TO CROWD-PLEASERS, YOU CAN'T BEAT A ~~WAAAAA~~ BLACKOUT.

ATTENTION, NEW YORKERS! DO NOT PANIC!

LOOK! IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!

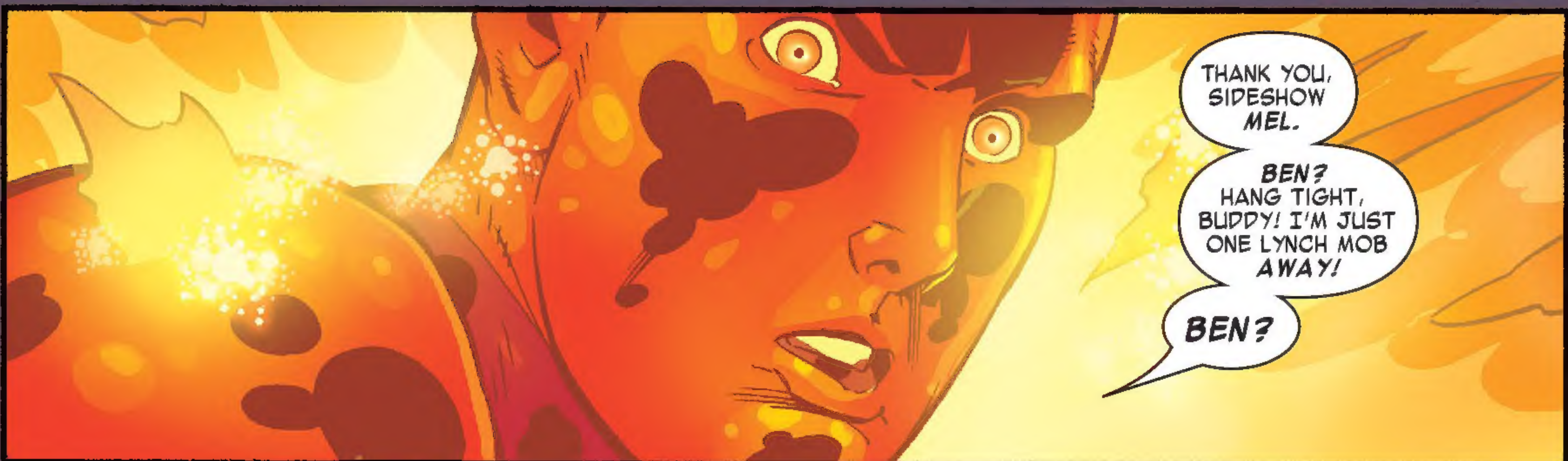
THAT'S RIGHT! STAY CALM! THE FF IS HERE TO ATTACK THIS PROBL--



ATTACK?

THE FANTASTIC FOUR IS ATTACKING?

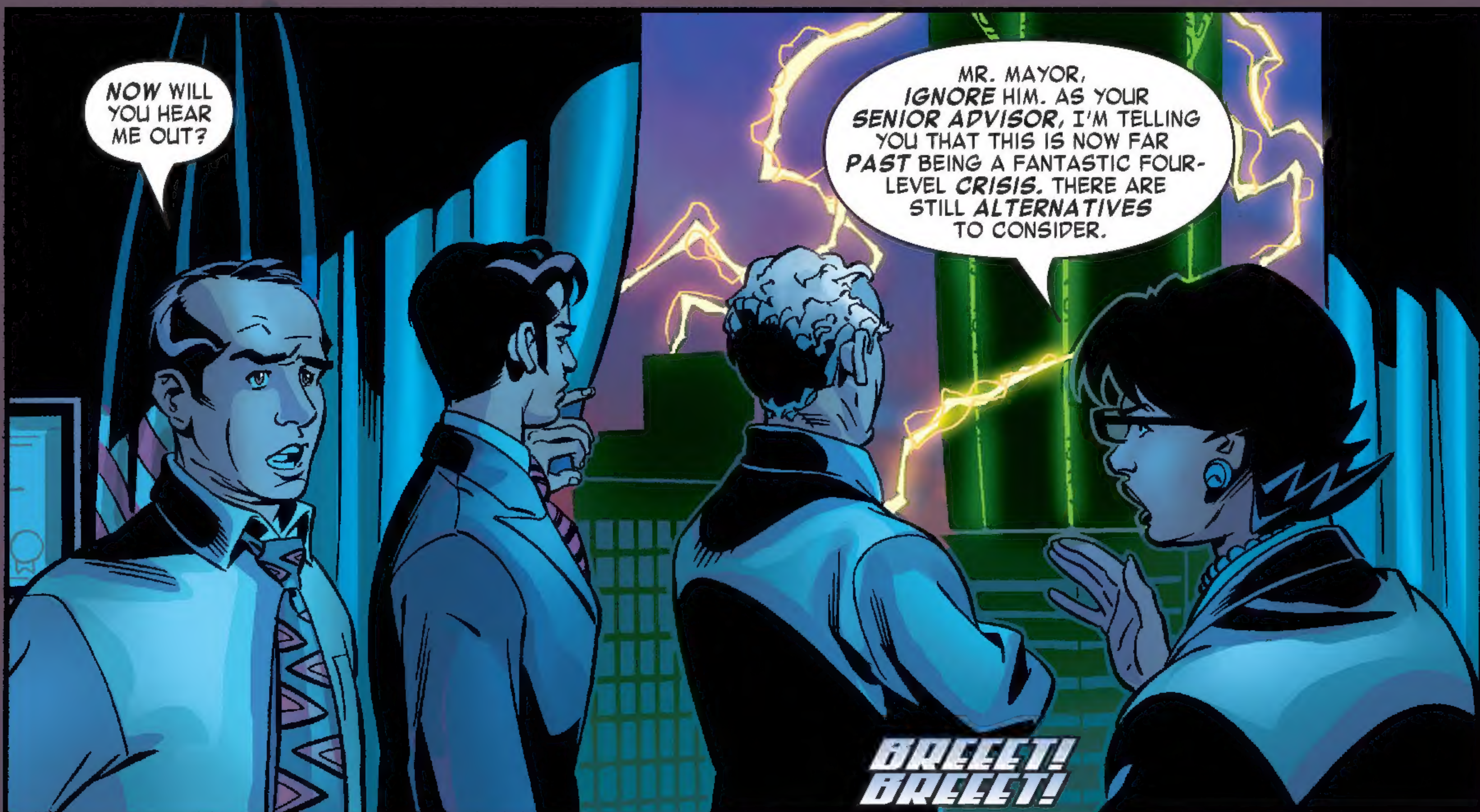
YOU HEARD HIM! THE FF'S GONE CRAZY! THEY'RE TAKING OVER THE CITY!



THANK YOU, SIDESHOW MEL.

BEN? HANG TIGHT, BUDDY! I'M JUST ONE LYNCH MOB AWAY!

BEN?



NOW WILL YOU HEAR ME OUT?

MR. MAYOR, IGNORE HIM. AS YOUR SENIOR ADVISOR, I'M TELLING YOU THAT THIS IS NOW FAR PAST BEING A FANTASTIC FOUR-LEVEL CRISIS. THERE ARE STILL ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER.

BRELET!
BRELET!



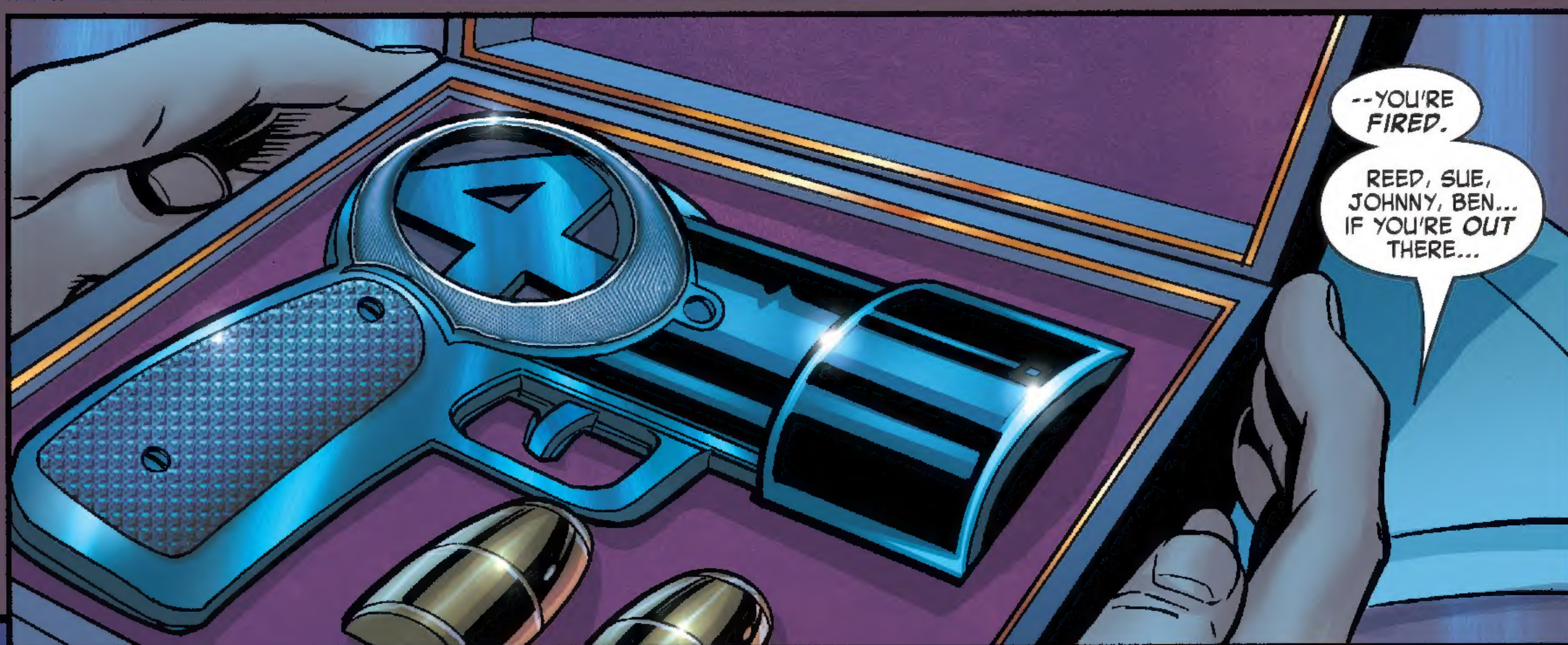
HNNNGH!



SIR, I--I HAVE A NEWS CREW FROM JERSEY ON THE LINE. THEY'VE GOT A VISUAL ON THE SITUATION AND THEY'RE SAYING WE'RE NOW-- WE'RE--

WE'RE WHAT, MARCIA? WORSE OFF? HOW COULD THAT BE?





"...WE NEED YOU."



④ TO BE CONTINUED...